

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 16 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10 and 12 are amended, and claim 16 is cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,754,323 to Kaji ("Kaji") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,515,700 to Nakamura ("Nakamura").

The Examiner indicates that Kaji fails to show or suggest the two dimensional control signal of the pending claims and cites Nakamura for this element.

In the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates, among other things, that "Nakamura et al. is directed towards applying a prescribed waveform (corresponding to equation 1 in column 11), which is two-dimensional and spreads two-dimensionally from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction" (page 3 of the Office action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

The Nakamura reference discloses that a high luminance compression is performed when an RGB signal is inputted, and a saturation compression is performed by sequentially calculating

coefficients k and k' for the same inputted RGB signal. However, Nakamura does not disclose the generation of a two-dimensional pattern.

In the present invention, a saturated portion can be compressed in a two-dimensional area in accordance with a detection made by a detecting part. This is because a two-dimensional pattern is generated that spreads two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction. The two-dimensional pattern also has suppression characteristics such that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-luminance portion.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a pattern generating part which generates a two dimensional pattern according to the detection made by said detecting part, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-luminance portion” Claims 5 and 9 have also been amended in a similar fashion.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that each of independent claims 1, 5 and 9 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Kaji and Nakamura), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant reserves the right to address such rejections should it become necessary.

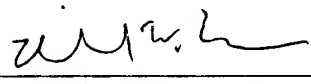
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4612). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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